



## The University System of New Hampshire Announces Cost-Saving Measures

*New initiatives are estimated to save USNH millions of dollars.*

**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Concord, New Hampshire** - The University System of New Hampshire has undertaken a series of cost-saving measures that are anticipated to save the System millions of dollars. Most of the savings come from USNH undertaking a competitive bid process for its health care administrators which cover the System's more than 4,000 benefits-eligible employees.

"We are always looking at ways to contain costs," stated USNH Chancellor Todd Leach. "The rising costs of health care unquestionably influence the cost of providing health care benefits and thus impact the cost of education, not just here in New Hampshire, but across the nation. We knew we had to be proactive to curb those costs, so this year, when faced with a renewal much higher than in previous years, we went to a competitive bid process to offer affordable, comprehensive benefits to our employees and save the System money."

The result was the selection of Cigna Healthcare and OptumRx to administer medical and pharmacy coverage. Additionally, employee choice was expanded by offering three plan types, including a high deductible plan option that provides cost and value options to best meet the needs of employees and their dependents. These changes resulted in an estimated additional \$3 million in savings for 2017.

"Our open enrollment communication efforts resulted in many employees electing to move from a more expensive plan to one that meets their needs, but at a lower cost," stated James McGrail, Chief Human Resources Officer at USNH. "For example, we enrolled more than 400 employees into our new mid-option plan and increased enrollment in the high deductible plan by 100%."

These cost savings for USNH and its employees were achieved without making material reductions to benefits coverage. In fact, coverage was enhanced to include a range of added treatment services. USNH also added new and improved features such as Telemedicine, Motivate Me (Cigna's wellness platform), and Healthcare Bluebook, all in an effort to help its employees navigate the health care environment.

"This is just another step in our mission to be cost-conscientious and save money while improving services to our employees. Five years ago, USNH shifted to become self-insured, resulting in an estimated \$49 million in cost avoidance to date," stated Leach. "We are always striving to be careful stewards of our limited resources and provide a world class education at the lowest possible price."

**About USNH**

The University System of New Hampshire enrolls 33,000 students, and consists of four public institutions: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire. USNH strives to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible higher educational opportunities throughout New Hampshire, as well as address critical state workforce needs. A 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the University System.

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